

MEMORIAL

OF

THE KEHUKEE PRIMITIVE BAPTIST ASSOCIATION IN
NORTH CAROLINA,

PRAYING

The repeal of all laws authorizing the appointment of Chaplains to Congress, the army, navy, and other public stations, and that Congress will legislate no further on the subject of religion.

DECEMBER 11, 1848.

Ordered to be printed.

The ministers and delegates representing the churches which compose the Kehukee Primitive Baptist Association assembled in conference with the Baptist church at Great Swamp, Pitt county, North Carolina, the Saturday before the first Sunday in October, 1848,

To the honorable the Congress of the United States of America :

Viewing with distrust the rapid strides of priestcraft, now being made in these United States, and dreading for themselves and posterity that worst of all scourges, an ecclesiastical despotism, your memorialists most respectfully beg leave to submit to your honorable body this their memorial, petition, and remonstrance.

First, then, they beg and entreat that you will in your wisdom abolish all laws, provisions, or resolutions now in force by authority of your honorable body, "respecting the establishment of religion," whereby chaplains to Congress, the army, navy, and other public stations, are employed by the general government to exercise their religious functions, and are paid for their services out of the public treasury, and whereby religious teachers are employed and religious schools established at the expense of government.

Second. Your memorialists respectfully suggest that the Christian religion is of divine authority ; that it came down from Heaven to earth unceremoniously, asking no favors of, and begging no emoluments from, earthly sanhedrims, senates, principalities, or powers ; that it came to men contrary to the will of man of flesh and of blood, but according to the will of God ; and having made its way to near the middle of the 19th century through persecution, and being upheld and supported by God Almighty, needeth not now the aid of human laws for its further existence or advancement, but will prosper, as heretofore, in defiance of human enactments, opposition, or persecution; and that all attempts to promote the happi-

ness of man, by uniting it to human governments in by-gone days, have signally failed, and served but to establish an ecclesiastical despotism, totally at variance with the simple laws, mild reign, and spiritual kingdom of the King of Kings and Lord of Lords "who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will."

Your memorialists, therefore, for the sake of Christ, the purity of His religion, and the honor of His cause, as well as the happiness and liberty of themselves, those whom they represent, and thousands yet unborn, beg you to legislate no further on the subject of religion, but entreat you to undo what they humbly conceive has been prematurely, wrongfully, and unconstitutionally done. All ministers should attend to the heavenly injunction recorded in the 2d chapter of the 1st epistle of Paul the Apostle to Timothy, "to pray and intercede for kings and for all that are in authority;" and this can be done as effectually in the closet or in family prayer, either in America, Europe, Asia, or Africa, for the well-being of the American Congress, or its members, as if the minister were in the immediate presence of those for whose special benefit he may intercede, since the Creator and Preserver of mankind is an Infinite and Omnipresent Being. And, in conclusion, they further suggest, that if ministers cannot preach and pray for the army, the navy, for Congress, and the Indian tribes, for the love of Christ, without conferring with flesh and blood, and a salary in filthy lucre, stipulated and agreed upon before services rendered, then they cannot acceptably to God do so with this salary, for such constitutes them hirelings to all intents and purposes, in whom there is no dependence, and in whose counsels there is no safety.

By order: 2d October, 1848.

WILLIAM HYMAN,
Moderator.

JOSEPH D. BIGGS, *Clerk.*